Non-Furnishing of Utilisation Certificates

4660. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India had mentioned in its report No. 1 of 97 on page 22 that some departments have not furnished utilisation certificate since last twenty years; and

(b) if so, what actions have been taken in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is primarily the responsibility of concerned Departments/ Ministries to watch receipt of utilisation certificates from Grants-in-aid institutions. However, Ministry of Finance have directed the Departments/Ministries to ensure that fresh grants are not released unless utilisation certificates in respect of earlier grants have been obtained.

Rationalisation of Punishment for Smuggling and Drug Trafficking

4661. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to rationalise the punishment structure for smuggling and trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances; and

(b) if so, what are the new stipulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bill, namely, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1998 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 9.7.98 for amending the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. The Bill, *inter-alia,* proposes to rationalise the sentence structure to ensure that while drug traffickers who traffic in significant quantities of drugs are punished with deterrent sentences, the addicts and those who commit less serious offences are sentenced to less severe punishment. The Bill also proposes to restrict the application of strict bail provisions to those offenders who indulge in